

REMARKS

This response is being filed within two months of the Office Action dated November 2, 2005.

Claims 16-19, 27-31 and 33-39 are pending in the application. Claims 16, 27, 31, 36 and 39 are in independent form. Claims 27, 31 and 36 have been amended by this response. There are no additional fees required. If any fees are required, Applicant requests the fee be withdraw from Applicant's Deposit Account 08-2025.

In the Office Action dated November 2, 2005, the Examiner reiterated his rejections of claims 27-31 and 33-38. By this response Applicant has amended independent claims 27 and 36 to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 16 and has amended independent claim 31 to incorporate the limitations of allowed claim 39.

In particular, Applicant has amended claim 27 to recite:

"wherein the spittoon is positioned within the servicing region and configured to accumulate a puddle of the first ink formulation therein followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, and to splatter the second ink formulation out of said puddle for evaporation of the said second components and accumulation of said non-dried ink sludge beyond said puddle."

Applicant has amended claim 31 to recite:

"wherein the spittoon comprises a structure which, upon accumulating a puddle of the first ink formulation therein, followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, causes

the second ink formulation to splatter onto said side walls for evaporation of said second components and accumulation of at least a portion of said non-dried ink residue thereon."

Applicant has amended claim 36 to recite:

"wherein the spittoon is positioned within the servicing region and configured to accumulate a puddle of the first ink formulation therein followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, and to splatter the second ink formulation out of said puddle for evaporation of the said second components and accumulation of said non-dried ink sludge beyond said puddle."

Independent claims 16 and 39 have been indicated as allowable. Accordingly, Applicant believes amended claims 27, 31 and 36, and therefore, the entire application is in condition for allowance. In particular, on page 4 of his Office Action dated January 7, 2005, the Examiner stated: "Referring to claim 16: The primary reasons for the indication of the allowability of the claim is the inclusions therein, in combination as currently claimed, of the limitation that a spittoon within the servicing region configured to accumulate a puddle of the first ink formulation therein followed by spitting the second ink formulation into said puddle, and to splatter the second ink formulation out of said puddle for evaporation of the said second components and accumulation of said non-dried ink sludge beyond said puddle is neither disclosed nor taught by the cited prior art of record, alone or in combination." This limitation of claim 16 has now been added into claims 27 and 36. On page 4 of the Office

Action dated June 9, 2005 the Examiner stated: "Referring to claim 39: The reason for allowance is the same as the one regarding claim 16." The limitation of claim 39 has now been added into claim 31. Accordingly, claims 27, 31 and 36 are in condition for allowance and Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the same.

Conclusion

Applicant believes the application is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests allowance of the same. If the Examiner should have any questions regarding this response, a call to Applicant's counsel, Ms. Ingrid M. McTaggart at (503) 230-7934, is respectfully requested. If the Examiner should have any other questions regarding the above referenced application, a call to Applicant's counsel Mr. Robert D. Wasson at (360) 212-2338, is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Vincent M. Taggart

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